

The Keystone

The Official Guide to Red Rock Canyon

No. 8

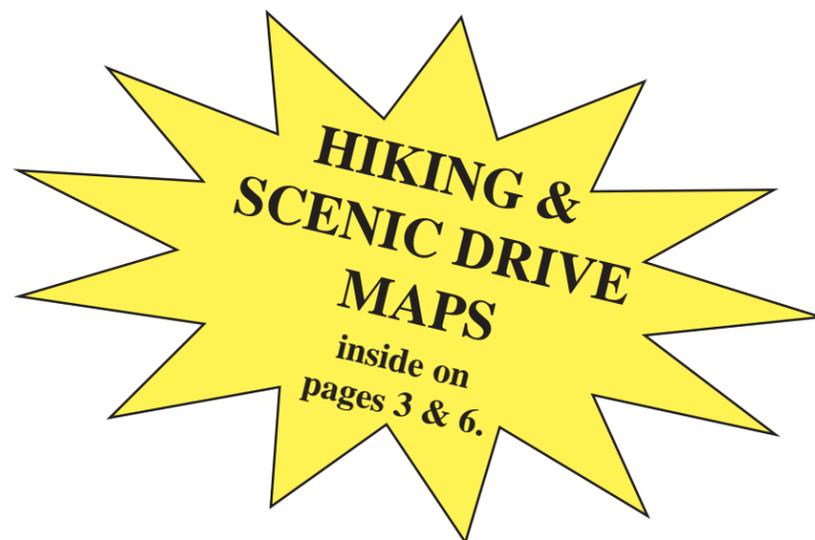
Summer/Fall 2004

Partners Make the Difference!

Each year Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area faces a major challenge, how to manage increasing and sometimes competing visitor needs while working within tight federal budgets. Often Red Rock Canyon is financially situated where it can fund only the basic visitor services such as litter pickup and janitorial services, law enforcement and a visitor center staff. For 20 years now, the Bureau of Land Management has successfully met the increased demand for recreation here by partnering with two non-profit organizations. It is the financial, staff and volunteer support that these organizations provide that make all the difference at Red Rock Canyon!

The **Red Rock Canyon Interpretive Association** operates the bookstore and gift shop in the visitor center. The Association supports the conservation of Red Rock Canyon through funding of wayside exhibits around the tortoise habitat and Scenic Drive, providing staff for outreach programs in Las Vegas and guided walks at Red Rock Canyon. Throughout the year the Association assists with special activities such as the Photo Contest, Poetry Contest, Art Contest and the Harvest Festival.

Friends of Red Rock Canyon marks its 20th Anniversary in 2004. In 2003 Friends volunteers spent over 16,500 hours working on trail improvements, graffiti removal, fence installation, maintaining the tor-



toise habitat at the Visitor Center and performing trail monitoring. Last October during Red Rock Day, Friends volunteers and the public contributed 2,500 hours of volunteer work on fencing, campsite improvements, painting of trash cans, barbecues and restrooms at Red Springs, and trash removal. In just a single day, Friends members and the public volunteered work valued at \$41,300!

Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area is visited by nearly one million people each year, and having partners like *Friends of Red Rock Canyon* and the *Red Rock Canyon Interpretive Association* ensures the future of Red Rock Canyon for all!

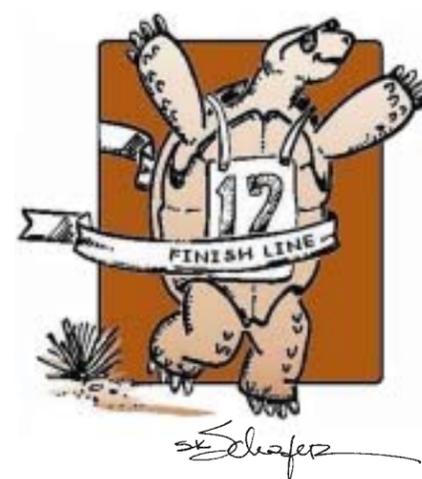
Upcoming Events



10th Annual
National Public
Lands Day
Saturday
September 18,
2004



3rd Annual
Tortoise Trot
Saturday
October 30,
2004



Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area is administered by the Bureau of Land Management. Our website is www.redrockcanyon.blm.gov





How to spend your time at Red Rock Canyon

One hour

Visitor Center and Scenic Drive

Your first stop should be at the visitor center, where you will find exhibits on the cultural, natural and geologic history of Red Rock Canyon. In the rear of the visitor center is a tortoise habitat, where you may see live tortoise in an enclosure (Apr-Oct). Books, maps and other items can be purchased in the Red Rock Canyon Interpretive Association Bookstore. Afterwards, drive the 13-mile (20.9 km) scenic drive, stopping at the various parking lots and scenic viewpoints along the way.

Up to two hours

Visitor Center, Scenic Drive and Short Hike

Your first stop should be at the visitor center, where you will find exhibits on the cultural, natural and geologic history of Red Rock Canyon. In the rear of the visitor center is a tortoise habitat, where you may see live tortoise in an enclosure (Apr-Oct). Books, maps and other items can be purchased in the Red Rock Canyon Interpretive Association Bookstore. Afterwards, drive the 13-mile (20.9 km) scenic drive, stopping at the various parking lots and scenic viewpoints along the way. About eight miles (12.9 km) on the scenic drive, take the Willow Springs turnoff and park at the Lost Creek - Children's Discovery Trail parking lot (the first paved parking lot on the left). This trail is an easy three-quarter mile (1.2 km) loop that takes about 25 minutes to complete. There is a short side trail which leads to a seasonal waterfall (Jan-Mar).

Visitor Facilities



Handicap accessible restrooms can be found at the visitor center and most pullouts on the scenic drive. Wheelchair accessible trails are located behind the visitor center, near the Willow Springs Picnic Area and at the Red Rock Overlook.



The visitor center is open daily all-year except for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's. It is open from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. with extended hours during certain seasons. BLM staff and volunteers are available to give current information on trail and road conditions. There are exhibits that explain the area's cultural, natural and geologic resources. A gift shop and bookstore is operated by the Red Rock Canyon Interpretive Association (see sales on page five).

Fast Facts



The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for managing 264 million acres of public land for multiple uses including wilderness, grazing, mining and recreation.

Red Rock Canyon is one of 14 national conservation areas in the U.S. managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

Originally established in 1990, Red Rock Canyon encompasses 198,000 acres including two wilderness areas.

Each year nearly one million people visit Red Rock Canyon.

Climate & Temperatures

Red Rock Canyon is a part of the Mojave Desert. It averages 294 days of sunshine per year. Rainfall averages between four and 10 inches per year.

Seasonal High & Low Temperatures (°F)

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| High | 56 | 62 | 68 | 72 | 88 | 98 | 104 | 102 | 94 | 81 | 66 | 57 |
| Low | 32 | 37 | 42 | 50 | 59 | 68 | 75 | 73 | 65 | 53 | 40 | 33 |

The publication of this newspaper was made possible by funding from the **Red Rock Canyon Interpretive Association and Friends of Red Rock Canyon.**

Content was provided by Chuck and Pat Williams, Alice Stewart-Hatchett, Gina Mele, Laurie Stevens and Brian L. Buttazoni.

Layout, design and editing was done by Brian L. Buttazoni.

Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area
HCR 33, Box 5500, Las Vegas, Nevada 89124
(702) 515-5350

BLM\GI-01\013+8300

Flash Floods!!

Can occur at anytime.

Before you hike, check the

local weather forecast, watch

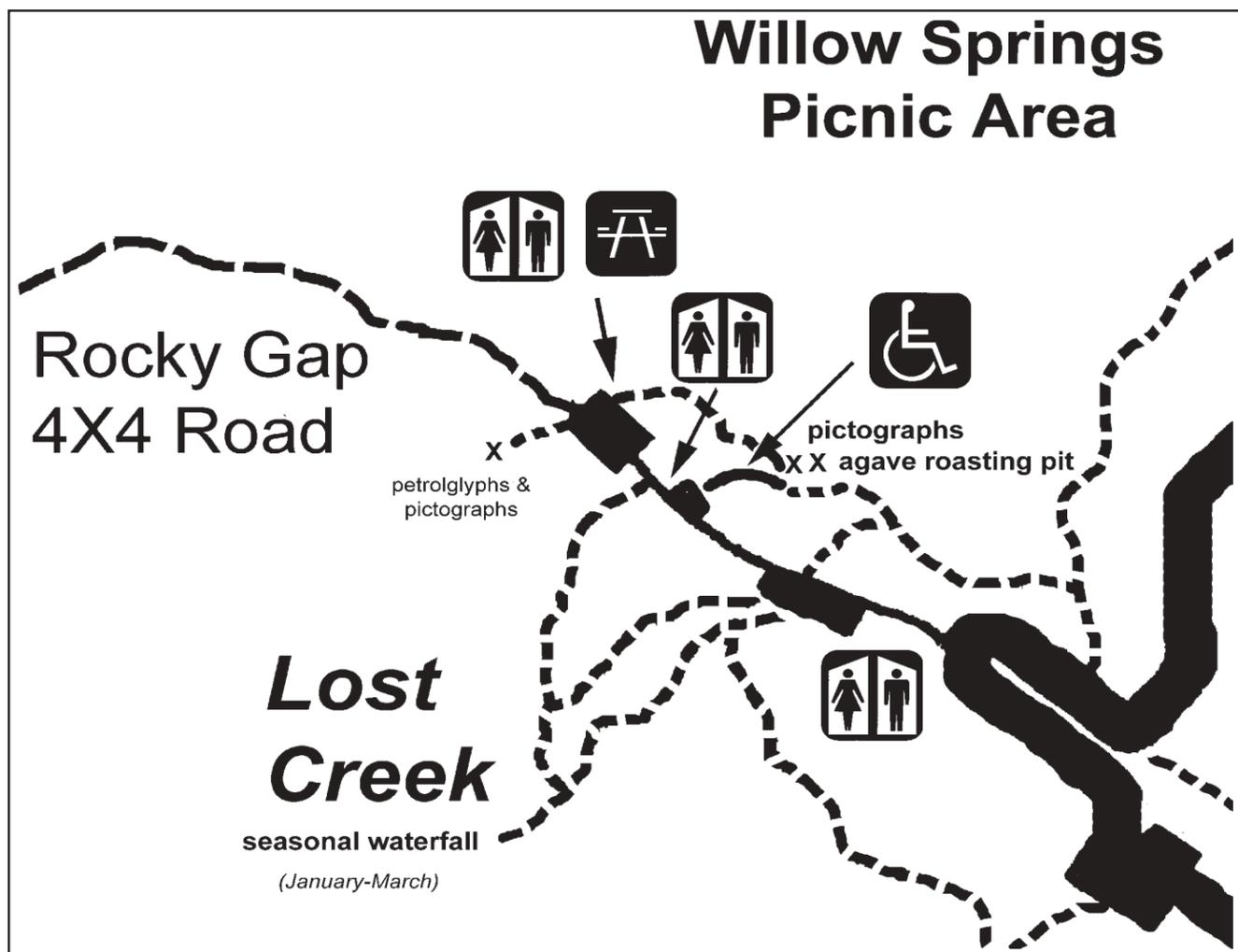
for clouds building over the mountains,

and never hike or drive across a flooded path.





Exploring Lost Creek and Willow Springs



Trails

The Lost Creek area is a major starting point for several trails including: La Madre Springs, White Rock and the Lost Creek - Children's Discovery Trail. It is also the starting point for the Rocky Gap Road, a 4X4 road that traverses the western escarpment and drops into Lovell Canyon. From the summit of this road you can hike to the top of Bridge Mountain. Check at the visitor center for more information on this road or the trail to Bridge Mountain.

Lost Creek - Children's Discovery Trail: easy, 3/4 mi (1.2 km), 25 minute loop

The Lost Creek Trail starts at the first parking lot on the left when you drive up the road to the Willow Springs Picnic Area. It is a wonderful place to explore because of the variety of plant life and a number of cultural sites. If you take this trail between January and March you may see a small waterfall.

Although rated as easy because of its length, this is not a flat trail. A portion of this trail is a boardwalk, constructed in 2002 by the Friends of Red Rock Canyon group to reduce impacts to the streamside vegetation.

On the trail, there is one degraded cultural site that contained pictographs. It is a reminder to all that these are finite resources that can easily be lost by carelessness.

Petroglyph Trail: easy, .1 mi (.16 km), 10 minutes

This trail starts on the west side of the Willow Springs Picnic Area. The Petroglyph Trail is a easy and short trail that takes you to a rock face that has both petroglyphs and pictographs. Like the site on the Lost Creek Trail, this site shows the impacts on fragile cultural resources by carelessness.

When visiting cultural sites remember to tread lightly, do not deface these places, take only photos and memories home!

Cultural Resources

Agave Roasting Pits

Agave roasting pits are probably the most common cultural resource in Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area. They are circular areas with firecracked and whitened limestone. They can vary in size up to six feet in diameter. Roasting pits were used to cook various foods including agave hearts, desert tortoise and other plant and animal foods. The limestone rocks were heated by fire and then used to cook foods. After heating, the limestone was raked aside and replaced with new rocks. This process caused a circular ring of rocks to grow with continued use.

Rock Art - Petroglyphs vs. Pictographs

There are two forms of rock art in Red Rock Canyon: petroglyphs and pictographs. The main difference between the two types is the manner in which they were made. *Petroglyphs* were pecked into the surface of the rock. A coating of dark *desert varnish* is the best medium for petroglyphs, providing a contrast to make the images easily visible. *Pictographs* were painted on the rock using various colored paints made from flowers, plant bark and roots. Between the Lost Creek Trail parking lot and Willow Springs Picnic Area there is a short paved trail about two hundred feet in length (fully accessible by wheelchairs) that leads you to a site where you can view six handprints that were painted on the side of a large sandstone boulder about 800 years ago.

Cultural sites are irreplaceable and it is up to all of us to ensure that future generations will have the opportunity to visit these sites intact.

Friends of Red Rock Canyon



Volunteers take a break while painting a portion of the visitor center.

One day events at Red Rock Canyon offer you the opportunity to give something back, and have fun at the same time!



A yearly event where the public and volunteers help to keep Red Rock Canyon clean and maintained for all to enjoy!!



Volunteers lend a hand to collect some of the trash around the visitor center.



Volunteers install fencing around the Sandstone Quarry Parking Lot.



During the lunch break, volunteers are entertained by a local musical group.



The Tortoise Trot is an opportunity to test yourself on a four mile run or two mile walk and raise money for the conservation of Red Rock Canyon.

Throughout the year you can give something back to Red Rock Canyon.....



Mojave Max meets with participants at the Tortoise Trot.



Participants take off from the visitor center on their four mile trot.



Information

by working in the visitor center just a few hours each month to provide visitors with information....

How can you help?

Friends of Red Rock Canyon continues to grow through the commitment and generosity of our members and corporate benefactors. The future challenges facing Red Rock Canyon include urban encroachment, loss of native species habitat and continuing to educate visitors about this unique and rare area. Other areas of concern include over-use, transportation and parking within the conservation area.

By joining and supporting Friends of Red Rock Canyon, whether financially or with your valuable volunteer contributions, you will be helping our efforts to protect this area so that future generations can enjoy its beauty first hand. Our website is: www.friendsofredrockcanyon.org

Please call us if you have any questions at: 702-255-8743.



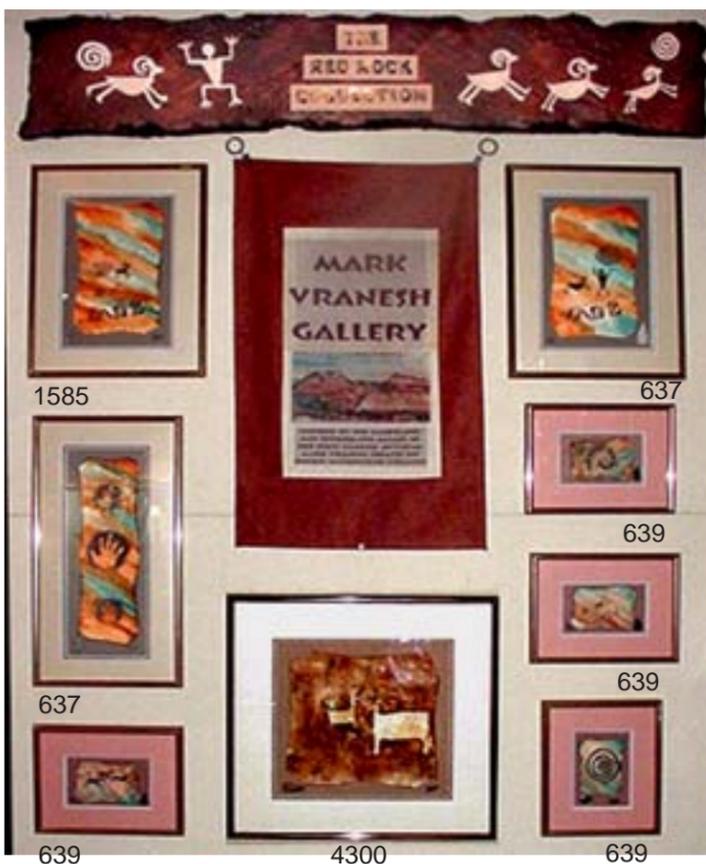
or by spending just a few hours a month helping us maintain our tortoise habitat and answering visitor questions.



Red Rock Canyon Interpretive Association

HCR 33, Box 5500, Las Vegas NV 89124 PHONE: 866-302-7625
Our staff is available to assist you 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. PST daily.

ROCK ART FOR YOUR WALLS!



ROCK ART TO WEAR!

Make every T-Shirt a work of art - *Rock Art!*
Transferyglyphs [Iron-Ons]
710 \$ 5.95

Red Dirt Cap
125....\$ 17.00

Tonal T green maroon eggplant
Small 4032 4033 4034 \$ 17.95
Medium 2569 2577 2967 \$ 17.95
Large 2570 2578 2851 \$ 17.95
XLarge 2571 2579 2852 \$ 17.95
XXLarge 2572 2580 2853 \$ 18.95

Red Dirt Petro T-Shirt
Adult Sizes: M, L, XL \$23.00,
XXLarge \$26.00

ROCK ART TO EXPLORE!



Here is a list of a few petroglyph themed books and related items:

- NATIVE AMERICAN ROCK ART # 402 \$ 17.95
- LEGACY ON STONE # 409 \$ 15.95
- ROCK ART SYMBOLS # 3439 \$ 15.95
- Rock-Art of the Southwest # 1984 \$ 14.95
- Prehistoric ROCK ART # 2790 \$ 14.95
- PETROGLYPHS [Easy Field Guide] # 427 \$ 1.50
- ART on the ROCKS [15 postcards] # 710 \$ 3.95

Featured Artist - Mark Vranesh

About the Artist.....“Art is where my heart is” says Mark Vranesh, a Las Vegas artist whose work is featured in our Book and Gift Store. Inspired by the landscapes and petroglyph images found at Red Rock Canyon, Mark creates his watercolors using a cotton-based paper over a form and painting his watercolors on the canvas. The finished product looks as though the image was painted on rock. Recognized by the Las Vegas Review Journal as *Best Local Artist* in Las Vegas for 2001, Vranesh’s unique petroglyph art has also been featured on QVC’s tour of Nevada.

Below is the newest addition to the Mark Vranesh Gallery!



Call 866-302-7625 to place an order or to make inquiries.

Please visit the
Red Rock Canyon Interpretive Association
on the web at www.redrockcanyonlv.org.
Follow the [shopping](#) link to see items unique to Red Rock Canyon. Remember all proceeds go directly to
Red Rock Canyon.

SCENIC DRIVE AND HIKING TRAIL MAP

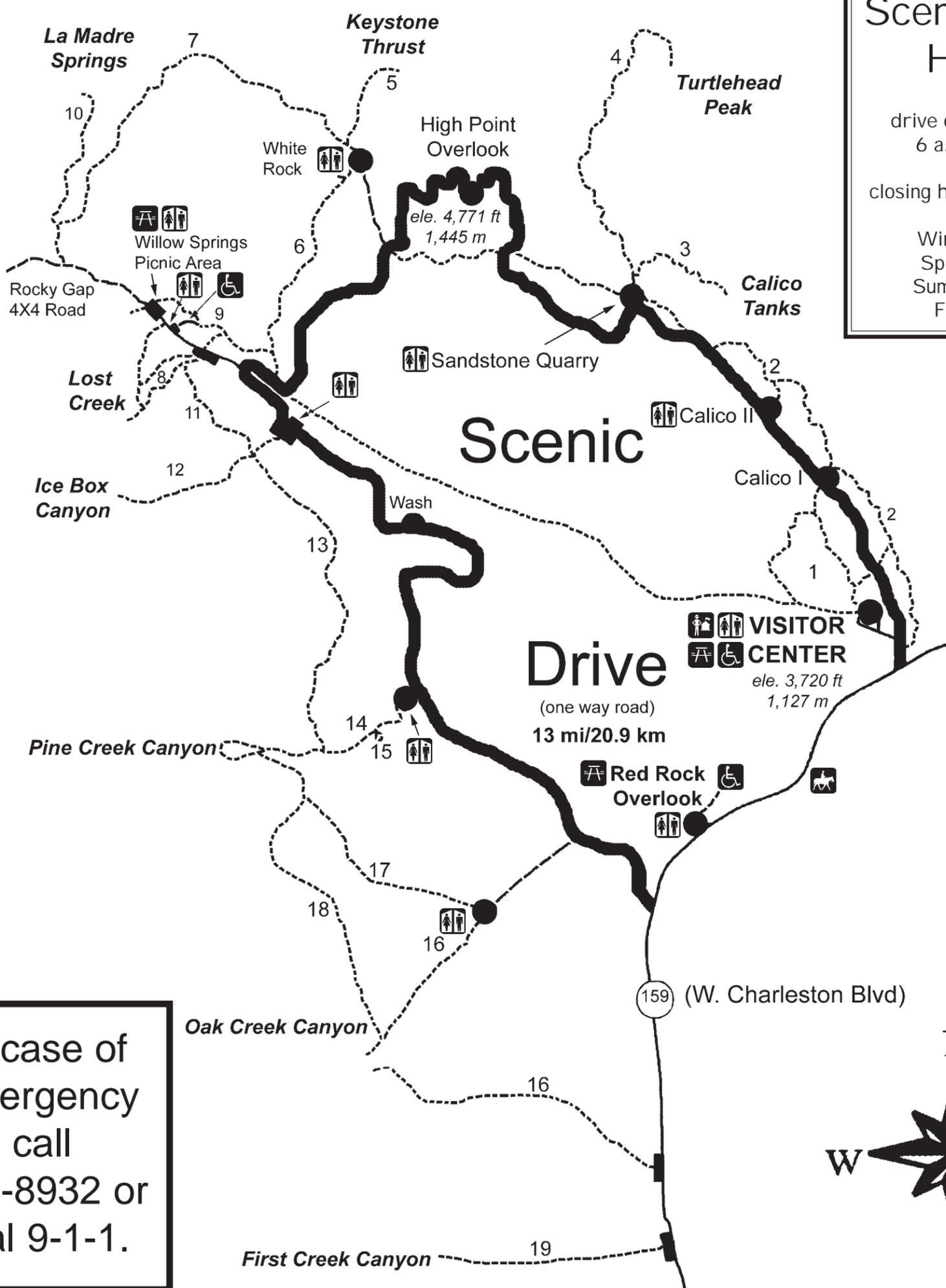
- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Moenkopi | 8. Lost Creek - Children's Discovery | 14. Pine Creek Canyon |
| 2. Calico Hills | 9. Willow Springs Loop | 15. Fire Ecology |
| 3. Calico Tanks | 10. La Madre Springs | 16. Oak Creek Canyon |
| 4. Turtlehead Peak | 11. SMYC (Spring Mountain Youth Camp) | 17. Arnight |
| 5. Keystone Thrust | 12. Ice Box Canyon | 18. Knoll |
| 7. White Rock - La Madre Springs Loop | 13. Dale's | 19. First Creek Canyon |

Scenic Drive Hours

drive opens daily at 6 a.m. all-year

closing hours as follows:

Winter 5 p.m.
 Spring 7 p.m.
 Summer 8 p.m.
 Fall 7 p.m.



In case of emergency call 293-8932 or dial 9-1-1.

KEYSTONE HIKING TRAILS DESCRIPTIONS

| trail name | level of difficulty and gain | approximate round-trip time and distance | description |
|---|---|--|--|
| 1. Moenkopi | easy 300 ft (90 m) | 45 minutes 2 mi (3.2 km) | This trail starts to the west of the visitor center near a weather station. It offers panoramic views of the Calico Hills, the Spring Mountains and La Madre Mtns. |
| 2. Calico Hills | easy-moderate 400 ft (120 m) (3.2-9.6 km) | 1-3 hours 2-6 mi | This trail can be accessed by parking at either Calico I, Calico II or near the entrance station. This trail offers access to sport climbing areas and the best close-up views of the Calico Hills. |
| 3. Calico Tanks | moderate 450 ft (140 m) | 1.5 hours 2.5 mi (4 km) | This trail starts at the Sandstone Quarry parking lot. It winds up a wash, and at the top there may be seasonal water present in a natural tank (<i>tinaja</i>). |
| 4. Turtlehead Peak | difficult 1,700 ft (500m) | 3-4 hours 5 mi (8 km) | This trail starts at the Sandstone Quarry parking lot. It follows the shoulder of the peak up to the top (6,721 ft). The trail is intermittent and composed of loose rock. |
| 5. Keystone Thrust | moderate 400 ft (120m) | 1 hour 2.2 mi (3.5 km) | This trail is accessed from the upper White Rock parking lot. It takes you to the most significant geologic feature of Red Rock Canyon - the <i>Keystone Thrust</i> . |
| 6. White Rock-Willow Springs | easy 200 ft (60 m) | 2 hours 4.4 mi (7 km) | This trail starts at either the upper White Rock Springs parking lot, or at the Willow Springs Picnic Area. |
| 7. White Rock/La Madre Springs Loop | moderate 890 ft (270 m) | 3 hours 6 mi (9.6 km) | This trail can be started at three places: the upper White Rock Springs parking lot, the Lost Creek Trail parking lot, or Willow Springs Picnic Area. The north side of White Rock Mountain is one of the best areas for viewing bighorn sheep. You can connect to the La Madre Springs Trail to see an all-year spring. |
| 8. Lost Creek - Children's Discovery | easy 200 ft (60 m) | 25 minutes 0.75 mi (1.2 km) | This easy trail is wonderful place to explore because of the variety of plant life and a number of cultural sites. Depending on the season, there may be a waterfall (<i>Jan - Mar</i>). Also look for a pictograph and agave roasting pit site. <i>Although easy this is not a level trail.</i> |
| 9. Willow Springs Loop | easy 200 ft (60 m) | 45 minutes 1.5 mi (2.4 km) | This trail can be started at either the Willow Springs Picnic Area or Lost Creek Trail parking lot. The trail passes several pictograph and agave roasting pit sites. |
| 10. La Madre Springs | moderate 400 ft (120 m) | 1.5 hours 3.3 mi (5.2 km) | This trail starts at the Willow Springs parking lot. The first segment involves walking up part of the 4X4 Rocky Gap Road. These springs are a good place to watch for wildlife, including desert bighorn sheep. |
| 11. SMYC | moderate 300 ft (90 m) | 1 hour 2.2 mi (3.5 km) | This trail can be accessed at either the Lost Creek or Ice Box Canyon Trail parking lot. It follows the terrain at the base of the escarpment and connects the two trails. |
| 12. Ice Box Canyon | moderate 300 ft (90 m) | 1.5 hours 2.6 mi (4.1 km) | The parking lot for this trail is at mile eight on the scenic drive. This trail crosses open desert then enters the canyon. Unimproved trails into the canyon requires some tricky rock scrambling where there may be seasonal waterfalls (<i>Jan-Mar</i>). |
| 13. Dale's | moderate 300 ft (90 m) | 2 hours 4.4 mi (7 km) | This trail can be accessed from either the Ice Box or Pine Creek Canyon trailhead. It follows the terrain at the base of the escarpment and connects the two trails. |
| 14. Pine Creek Canyon | easy-moderate 300 ft (90 m) | 1.5 hours 3 mi (4.8 km) | The parking lot for this trail is at mile 10 on the scenic drive. This trail takes you across the open desert, past a homestead site, and into the canyon. Unimproved trails into the canyon requires some tricky rock scrambling where you may find seasonal waterfalls (<i>Jan-Mar</i>). |
| 15. Fire Ecology | easy 200 ft (60 m) | 25 minutes 0.75 mi (1.2 km) | This trail starts by taking Pine Creek Canyon Trail. It is a short figure eight trail that goes through a desert area where a controlled burn had been set in 1997. |
| 16. Oak Creek Canyon | easy-moderate 200 ft (60 m) | 1 hour 2 mi (3.2 km) | To access this trailhead, take the Oak Creek turnoff from the scenic drive onto a dirt road. The trail then heads through open desert to the mouth of the canyon. Unimproved trails lead deeper into the canyon. |
| 17. Arnight | moderate 300 ft (90 m) | 1 hour 2.4 mi (3.8 km) | This trail can be started at the Oak Creek Canyon parking lot or by hiking the Pine Creek Canyon Trail. It then connects the Oak Creek parking lot with the end loop of the Pine Creek Canyon Trail. |
| 18. Knoll | moderate 300 ft (90 m) | 2 hours 3.5 mi (5.6 km) | The shortest and easiest way to access this trail is by taking the Oak Creek Canyon Trail. This trail links the upper section of the Arnight Trail with the Oak Creek Canyon Trail, following the base of the escarpment. |
| 19. First Creek Canyon | easy-moderate 300 ft (90 m) | 1.5 hours 3 mi (4.8 km) | The trailhead is on Hwy 159 (W. Charleston Blvd.) 2.6 miles (4.1 km) southwest of the entrance to the scenic drive. This trail leads to the mouth of the canyon. Seasonal streams and waterfalls can be found deep in the canyon on unimproved trails (<i>Jan-Mar</i>). |



Camping Just Outside Vegas?

Camping in the desert during the winter can be a great experience. Mornings are chilly with mild daytime temperatures. Occasionally campers can wake up to spectacular views of snow cover on nearby mountains. Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area offers camping just two miles from the west side of Las Vegas.

Seventy-one individual campsites can accommodate tents and recreational vehicles including trailers (no-hookups). The campground has limited facilities including drinking water, restrooms, and each campsite has a picnic table, fire grill and fire ring. The individual camping fee is \$10 per night. Group campsites are also available.



Camping at the Red Rock Canyon Campground can be a great experience! Plan a weekend this winter and see what it is all about!

3rd Annual Red Rock Canyon Photo Contest

This September Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area will hold its 3rd Annual Photo Contest. The contest is sponsored by Friends of Red Rock Canyon, the Red Rock Canyon Interpretive Association, and the Bureau of Land Management. Taking photos can be a great experience and reminds us of our fond memories of visiting this place. Prizes are given to winners in each category. So get out there and take those photos so you can enter this year! For more information call Park Ranger Gina Mele at: 702-515-5355.



1st Place General Category.
"Moon Over Red Rock" by Rick Beach.

2nd Place
General Category.
"Globemallows" by
Anne Carter.



3rd Place Children's Category.
"Burros" by Brian Clarke.